

Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2014, 4:30 PM ♥ DPW Conference Room

In attendance: Susan Waite, John Root, Guilford Mooring, Laurel Dickey, Brenda Kennedy-Davies, Arnie Alper, Cristina Cox Fernandes.

Approve 1/6/14 and 1/9/14 minutes – both sets approved unanimously

Working Group reports:

- Compost: Have discussed what is currently happening. Alternative Recycling Associates is running a pilot curbside composting program. \$11/month if already a customer, \$24 if not a customer. Duseau is working on a possible program. Amherst Trucking says they do not have a water-tight truck. There have been conversations about downtown composting, there are some businesses that are interested, but no one has taken action on this yet. Triple T Trucking can also pick up compost as could Amend Organics. 89% of restaurant waste is likely compostable. LWV might be able to help with any outreach we plan. Center for Ecological Technology is helping with any planning concerning downtown composting. John will call Sean at CET to discuss planning for downtown further. All schools are now processing organics in some fashion and removing them.

Motion to add 5 minutes of discussion after each committee report. Amended to 5 minute conversation and 5 minute follow up. Approved unanimously.

- Transfer Station/SWEF: Committee members spent time educating themselves by reading relevant documents. Guilford further explained the budget.
- Downtown Recycling: A working group met with Alan Snow, Division Director, Trees & Parks, whose team handles trash removal in parks and downtown. Susan Waite is contacting the BID so that the working group can discuss their participation/responsibility for downtown recycling and their involvement with design of lid for recycling container so it appears different than refuse container. Discussion concerning the sort of truck that would be needed for downtown recycling. High school class and local company being utilized to design and fabricate truck. There is a cost to run the truck that transports recyclables to the MRF and the income generated does not balance this. Question was raised as to whether town recycling could be taken to facility at UMass that then takes them to MRF in Springfield.

Downtown recycling: planning & discussion: See above. There has been initial discussion with BID members concerning downtown trash and recycling removal. There is concern regarding costs. How do other communities handle downtown recycling? Northampton, Westfield, Springfield, Greenfield, perhaps. Subcommittee will contact these communities.

Enforcement planning: determine next steps: Review the haulers' observation that much that could be recycled is ending up in dumpsters. There is the possibility of a grant to fund a compliance position. Guilford recommends that this person be a part-time person who works with an office person who writes the letters and collects the fines. Question asked if this person could also work at the transfer station. Which goal: Are we leveling the playing field by educating people and trying to get everyone to comply, or are you trying to levy tickets for noncompliance? Susan will get a list of towns that have received this grant in the past.

Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to meeting & new business

- Composting in the Schools: Need consensus on which letter is going to the superintendent (there are currently two versions). A draft will be sent to committee members for review. Will be approved in March.
- Collection at Sustainability Festival – Pellet bags and Styrofoam. Maybe clothing, too. A limitation is that without sufficient notification, pellet bags and Styrofoam might be being disposed of in regular refuse.

- There will be info distributed and discussion in March concerning new waste disposal option for solid waste from transfer station.
- Can we have a list of the yearly events? Susan will send Brenda two documents that have this information. Brenda will combine and send to committee members.
- Question rose about how to handle the times of the year, especially spring, when students over-flow dumpsters and trash bins. Further discussion will be had in March.

Meeting adjourned 5:45.